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Soviet containment top CIA theme

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Containing the Soviet Union is the No. 1 intelligence priority of the 1980s, said Central Intelligence Agency senior presentation officer Paul M. Chretien Friday morning on the University of Oklahoma campus.

Chretien spoke before a combined class "Introduction to American Government" in place of CIA legal counsel Frederick P. Hitz, who was retained in Washington, D.C., at the last minute. Frank Smist, OU graduate student and Carl Albert fellow explained.

The senior presentation officer said that Soviet containment had been a major theme for the past 25 years, and the theme would remain firm. But he said it had been challenged recently with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the fall of Iran.

"A sub category is the containment of the Soviet use of Cuba and East Germany as tools in Soviet expansion in Africa, the Middle East and South America."

Chretien said current world hot spots are El Salvador and Poland.

He said the Soviet Union has been the United States' No. 1 in-

telligence target since World War II, since it is the only nation on earth which has armed nuclear weapons aimed at U.S. targets.

"Because of our intelligence efforts, we know how many there are, where they are, and what we have to do."

He said efforts are alive in the Soviet Union and its satellite countries to form a freer society and that the United States certainly would be supportive and in favor of the efforts.

"As long as humans live and breathe, they have the basic longing for freedom," he said.

Chretien said the real intelligence community is not like the world of secret agent 007 James Bond.

"Our people do not carry guns," he said. "And as far as having women throwing themselves at us, we have to work just as hard for that as anyone else."

He said the U.S. intelligence community is composed of the Department of State, the Department of Defense and the CIA, and its main function is to supply information to the president to enable him to make important decisions.

"Each president has his own

style, and the CIA tries to vary its intelligence reports to his individual preferences," he said.

For example, Eisenhower liked oral reports, arrows, maps and statistical information. Kennedy liked to have back-up information available to augment his reports, he said.

Johnson was a night person and liked to receive his reports in the evening so he could read them before going to bed. Nixon was a legalist and liked his information provided in legal form separating fact from opinion.

The Washington, D.C. officer said there are basic differences between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the CIA.

"There is no field where so much misinformation, mystery and mythology exists as in the CIA."

"The FBI is a domestic law enforcement group with agents which carry guns. The CIA is a foreign intelligence gathering organization with officers who do not carry guns."

"The CIA's basic duty is to go into foreign countries, collecting information, and then send the information to the United States where it is analyzed."

He said that information gathering can be open — that information which is readily available to anyone — or secret or clandestine. But the secret information is just a small part of the whole, he added.

He said that analyzing the information is as important as gathering the information and the analytical personnel could staff a small university.

Chretien said information is screened for political, economic and sociological data.

He said the CIA cannot predict the future "although we can predict probable causes of action."

The CIA hired 1,543 people out of 92,400 applicants last year — approximately 1 in 100.

During the 1980s Chretien said he expects to see the growth of space intelligence with the development of laser satellites and better technology. And he said he expects incidents of terrorism to increase in the United States in the next decade.